

Beaverton, Oregon
April 11, 2006

AFCTS Develops Strategic Alliance With Fifth Third Bank

American Funeral & Cemetery Trust Services (AFCTS) of Beaverton, Oregon is pleased to announce a strategic alliance with Fifth Third Bank of Cincinnati, Ohio. "This alliance will further efforts by AFCTS, a western regional funeral and cemetery trust company, to establish AFCTS as a national presence," said Chuck Wetmore, Director of Corporate Development at AFCTS. Wetmore went on to say, "the interest and response to our national expansion has been overwhelming, funeral homes and cemeteries are no longer satisfied with the level of service and products available to them on a regional basis and they are reaching out to AFCTS for these services."

AFCTS was founded by death care professional, who know and understand the funeral and cemetery industry. Wetmore further stated, "We are more than accountants and administrators; we are also funeral directors and embalmers with over 90 years of combined death care knowledge." Hal Martin, CEO and Founder of AFCTS served as the Executive Director of the Oregon Funeral Directors Association for ten years after twenty years in the preneed insurance and trust business. Robert Baird, President of AFCTS retired from funeral service in 1994 to join Martin at AFCTS, together they have built a solid reputation as trust service providers. With the recent addition of Ohio, Texas and Florida, AFCTS has now established "Master Trust" in 13 States and "Trust Administration Services" in all 50 U.S. States.

Fifth Third Bank is America's eleventh largest bank with holdings of over \$105.2 billion in assets. *Global Finance Magazine* has ranked Fifth Third Bank as the 31st world's safest Banks. Only 10 U.S. Banks made the list overall. *NASDAQ Magazine* has ranked Fifth Third Bank as #1 based on Market Value, while it continues to maintain the highest short-term ratings. Moody's has recognized Fifth Third Bank as one of the highest senior debt ratings for any U.S. Bank holding company.

The strategic alliance between AFCTS and Fifth Third Bank is strengthened by the fact that Fifth Third Bank has developed a "dedicated" financial services team specializing in the preneed and endowment industry. Robert Baird, President of AFCTS said "We could not be more pleased with the level of personalized service we have received from Fifth Third Bank and their preneed department and we look forward to many years of continued relationship with Fifth Third Bank."

Additional information about AFCTS services, products and staff is available at www.AFCTS.com. You may obtain Fifth Third Bank information directly from its website at www.53.com.